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OTTAWA • TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2008 metronews.ca

Celebrity Buzz

Amy's nude pics create a stir

pg 18

Grocery store robbed again

TRACEY TONG
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CRIME For the second time in two weeks, grocery-store employees were bound by robbery suspects after two men entered a Merivale Road store early yesterday morning.

Police are investigating a connection between two similar robberies after the Food Basics grocery store located at 1465 Merivale Rd. was robbed for the second time.

Notified by a burglary alarm, police attended the scene at around 1:55 a.m., but the two gun-toting suspects had already fled the scene.

The incident is very similar to a robbery that took place in the early hours of Dec. 8. In the earlier robbery, suspects had also bound store employees, who freed themselves and met police outside the building just after 2:15 a.m.

Police are now seeking two suspects in connection with the latest incident. Both suspects are described as English-speaking white males with average builds in their early 20s. One is 5-foot-10, the other is 5-foot-6.

Tips

- Anyone with information is asked to contact the Ottawa police robbery section at 613-236-1222, ext. 5116, or Crime Stoppers at 613-233-8477 (TIPS).

Hanukkah **Harper lights the menorah**

CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO CALGARY

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, home in Calgary for the holidays, lights the menorah at city hall yesterday in a celebration of Hanukkah. The Jewish festival of lights lasts eight days and will end Monday, Dec. 29.

Red chamber gets a blue makeover

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has tapped the ranks of card-carrying Conservatives and others sympathetic to his agenda to fill 18 Senate vacancies, a move critics blasted as an abuse of power at a time when opposition parties are threatening to topple the minority government.

Harper's patronage appointments include broadcasters Mike Duffy and Pamela Wallin, a former separatist politician in Quebec, several defeated Conservative candidates and other prominent Conservatives, including the party's chief fundraiser.

The raft of appointments mark a change of heart for Harper, who has derided the Senate and tried to bring in reforms that would cap Senate terms to eight years, as well as start down the path to an elected Senate. But facing possible defeat in just a few weeks, Harper instead moved fast to fill the existing vacancies with Conservative appointees.

"If Senate vacancies are to be filled, however, they should be filled by the government that Canadians elected rather than by a coalition that no one voted for."
Stephen Harper's aide

David Christopherson, the New Democrats' democratic reform critic, slammed Harper's appointments as "hypocritical and undemocratic."

"The problem is that it's filled with so many identifiable Conservative hacks," he said.

Christopherson said Harper should have waited until after Parliament resumes on Jan. 26.

"If Senate vacancies are to be filled, however, they should be filled by the government that Canadians elected rather than by a coalition that no one voted for," a Harper aide said, referring to the Liberal-NDP coalition agreement that was signed before Harper sought prorogation of Parliament earlier this month to avoid a confidence vote.

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff did not speak publicly yesterday. However, in a statement, he said, "in appointing 18 senators while Parliament is prorogued, Stephen Harper has shown once again that he cannot be trusted."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ShareYourViews
ottawaletters@metronews.ca

Workers hope to end transit strike

TIM WIECLAWSKI
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UNION OC Transpo drivers, mechanics and dispatchers are still on strike after a third day of negotiations with a federal mediator and the city failed produce an agreement.

Meetings are expected to resume tomorrow.

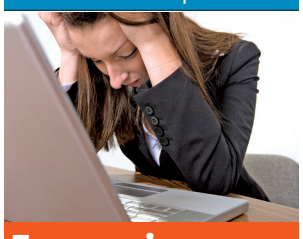
With both the union and the city agreeing to a media blackout, even drivers on the picket lines say they can only wait to hear back that some progress is being made toward ending the two-week-long strike.

"We've been blacked out," said an OC Transpo employee who only identified himself as Dwayne at a St. Laurent picketline.

"The city is not talking outside the meeting and neither is the union. So, we're all sitting on the sidelines waiting. We don't want to be out here, it's (cold)!"

Jim Smith, a 28-year veteran of OC Transpo, said employees are anxious to get back to back to work, but whatever agreement is reached through the mediator would still have to be voted on by city council and the union.

Seasonal Depression



Economic woes impact holidays

Second in a two-part series, pg 4

World pg 6

Russia set to boost its military

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Slow down in winter weather: Police
Ontario Provincial Police responded to numerous calls about vehicles in the ditch and collisions on Highway 416 between Bankfield Road and the Rideau River Bridge yesterday. Police are reminding people to adjust their driving to winter conditions and slow down, even when roads appear to be dry. METRO OTTAWA

Local/Canada

More blood donors needed

TRACEY TONG
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An otherwise healthy-looking little girl, Isla MacIntosh was diagnosed with leukemia in April.

"It was completely shocking," her mother, Gillian Peters remembered yesterday. "She showed no symptoms."

Although she responded to treatment late, MacIntosh, who turned five last week, is now in remission.

During her treatment at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, which continues for another year and a half, she had one blood transfusion, which kept her healthy enough to go through chemotherapy.

"She can't get chemotherapy if her blood levels are too low," Peters said. "So, long term, the blood was lifesaving."

Yesterday, accompanied by her mother, father Jeff MacIntosh and big sister, Gwynn, 8, MacIntosh visited the Carling location of Canadian Blood Services, where she handed out candy canes and thanked donors for giving blood.

"We hope it increases the awareness of the blood products that are needed this time of year," Peters said. "I think it gives a visual first-hand experience as to who (their donation) is going to."

Suspect sought in store robbery

HEIST Police have released a photo of a robbery suspect in hopes the public will help identify him.

Suspect

At 7 p.m. Dec. 3, a lone male entered the Mac's Milk at 1402 High Gate Rd. and engaged the clerk in a conversation about cigarettes.

The clerk presented a couple of packs of cigarettes when the suspect brandished a knife and demanded more cigarettes. The man fled on foot. There were no injuries.

The suspect is described as a white male, 30 to 40 years old, 5-10 to 6-0 tall with a medium build. He was unshaven and wearing a dark blue toque, prescription glasses, a black winter coat and faded blue jeans.

Anyone with information can call Crime Stoppers at 613-233-8477 (TIPS).

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Brunch **Feast of Nations**

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

From left: Action Sandy Hill's Maria von Finckenstein with dinner organizers Peter Evanchuck and Helene Lacelle show off some of the food they will be serving tomorrow at a free Christmas Eve brunch at the Sandy Hill Community Centre on 250 Somerset St. East, starting at 11:30 a.m.

Financial worries can add to holiday stress

KRISTEN THOMPSON
Metro Canada

METRO FEATURE
Seasonal **Depression**

With many Canadian workers dealing with lay-offs or the worry of being let go in the New Year, the 2008 holiday season is turning out to be particularly stressful, which can lead to depression and anxiety.

Kat Ivancic, 20, a customer service representative at a national bank in Vancouver, said everyone in her office is worried about losing their jobs in 2009, given the state of the economy.

She said while no one has been let go yet, the company is encouraging voluntary early retirement.

"I've seen some of my older co-workers cry over it," Ivancic said yesterday.

"(And customers) are coming in stressed out with financial crises, so customer service has got a lot harder … I don't want to deal with (this) stuff, especially at Christmas."

The holidays are already stressful for many reasons, said Hymie Anisman, Canada research chair in neuroscience at Carleton University in Ottawa. He added that this year, these reasons can be intensified by the poor economic climate.

"There's a lack of information about what the problem is and a lack of information about how to cope properly with it," Anisman said. "People don't know how much of it is real."

Dr. Joti Samra, a registered clinical psychologist at Simon Fraser University, said this fear can worsen the condition of people susceptible to depression.

"Things that are out of our control affect our mental health," she said, adding that it's important to keep the entire family in the loop.

Anisman suggests developing a coping strategy to get through this holiday season.

"(You have to) remain flexible. If one strategy doesn't work, be prepared to choose a different one or a combination of different strategies."

WITH FILES FROM TRACEY TONG

Crisis centres see a rise in callers

CHELSEA MIYA
for Metro Canada

The crisis help line at the Distress Centres of Toronto, one of the busiest in the country at roughly 120,000 callers a year, has seen a 22 per cent increase in calls about financial difficulties.

It's not bad weather blues, but times of transition that hit people the hardest said Karen Letofsky, the executive director.

And what worse time of transition than a recession?

"We've seen more and more people calling about suicide," said Letofsky. "Depression, heightened anxiety, fear of failure, fear of the future, wishing they could escape everything that's happening around them."

Letofsky said the worst fallout is yet to come, as the realities of lost jobs and homes sinks in.

Where to go for help

- Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention www.casp-acps.ca
- Crisis Hotlines:
- Ottawa — Distress Centre Ottawa and Region 613-238-3311, 24-hour
- Nationwide — Covenant House 1-800-999-9999, 24-hour

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Anonymous bomb threat forces plane turnaround in Athens

An Aeroflot flight from Athens to Moscow turned back in midair yesterday after receiving an anonymous bomb threat, but no explosives were found after police searched the plane. The Airbus A-319 carrying 49 passengers had been flying for around an hour when officials ordered it to turn back. REUTERS

World

Green Christmases more common

The odds of a white Christmas in temperate parts of the northern hemisphere have diminished in the last century and will likely decline further by 2100, experts said. Even though heavy snow this year will guarantee a white Christmas in many parts of Asia, Europe and North America, a 0.7 C rise in world temperatures since 1900 and projected bigger rises by 2100 suggest an inexorable trend. REUTERS

News in brief

ANIMALS A pig that survived 36 days buried in the rubble of May's massive Sichuan earthquake has been voted China's favourite animal, but the attention has made him fat and bad-tempered, state media said. The hog survived on charcoal and rainwater before being bought by a local businessman who named it "Zhu Jianqiang," or "Strong Pig." Now it has been voted top of an online poll of animals "who moved China" this year, the China Daily said. REUTERS

Obama's green team set to bloom

ENERGY U.S. president-elect Barack Obama's new "green dream team" is committed to battling climate change and ready to push for policy reforms, in stark contrast with the Bush administration, environmental advocates said.

Obama has pledged to create five million green jobs and break U.S. dependence on foreign oil, investing $150 billion US to promote renewable energy. REUTERS

Russia plans military boost

Russia plans a massive increase in its weapons procurement for three years beginning in 2009, with 300 tanks, 14 warships and almost 50 airplanes on the shopping list, a senior government official said yesterday.

Vladislav Putilin, deputy head of the military-industrial commission, told journalists after a cabinet meeting the government planned to allocate 4 trillion roubles ($141.5 billion US) in 2009-11 to modernise its army.

The move comes after Russia's five-day war with tiny neighbour Georgia. Russia won, but the conflict exposed a Soviet-style army with obsolete equipment, poorly co-ordinated command, outdated communications and a lack of spy drones and high-precision bombs.

Putilin said that over the three-year period, Russia's armed forces would receive more than 400 new types of weapons, including 48 aircraft, six spy drones, 60 helicopters, 14 warships, 300 tanks and more than 2,000 auto vehicles. He did not specify their types. REUTERS

Spain **Winning the big one**

REUTERS/ALBERT GEA

Monica Torras, an employee of a ticket office that sold part of the winning number of El Gordo, one of the world's richest lotteries, sprays champagne in Barcelona yesterday.

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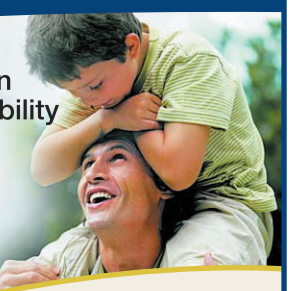

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Russia to lead formation of gas export body
Russia will oversee the creation of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum today with 11 countries in a meeting with states such as Iran, Qatar and Venezuela. REUTERS

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Recession mindset fuels slide

Consumer confidence in Canada dropped for a third consecutive month in December, hitting a 27-year low as a "psychology of recession" tightened its grip on Canadians, the Conference Board of Canada said yesterday.

The index in December fell to 67.7 from 71.0 in November, the lowest mark since the 63.0 recorded during the recession of 1981-82. The index was 100 in 2002.

"Consumers continue to be gloomy about their financial situation, indicating that they are financially worse off today than they were six months ago. Similarly, they expect to be worse off six months from now," Conference Board chief economist Glen Hodgson told a news conference.

"In the last month that loss of confidence has become very personal. People are worried about their own financial circumstances."
Glen Hodgson

"People understand that the U.S. economy is in recession, they're worried about the impact on exports and their own jobs now ... in the last month that loss of confidence has become very personal. People are worried about their own financial circumstances."

He also said the board was revising its forecast for 2009 and would most likely come out with a gloomier set of figures early in the new year.

Last month the think-tank said the economy in the manufacturing heartland of Ontario would grow by just 0.8 per cent next year.

The survey showed confidence across the country dropped in December, most notably in Ontario, despite steadily falling prices for gasoline. REUTERS

Toyota sees first operating loss

AUTOS Toyota Motor Corp., the world's biggest automaker, yesterday forecast its first group operating loss of 150 billion yen ($1.7 billion US) for the year to end-March, due to a relentless global slide in car sales and a crippling rise in the yen.

"This is very, very, very bad," said Koichi Ogawa, chief portfolio manager at Daiwa SB Investments. "There's a chance they could fall into the red in the next business year as well." REUTERS

EU seeks WTO case to settle trade 'beef'

TRADE The European Union launched a case at the World Trade Organization yesterday to test whether its bans on growth-promoting hormones and imports of hormone-treated meat comply with trade rules.

After the U.S. and Canada challenged the ban, the Appellate Body declared it was against WTO rules in 1998. This led the United States and Canada to impose trade sanctions. REUTERS

Business in brief

TAKEOVER Shares in oil drilling firm Grey Wolf Inc. fell by more than half yesterday, reflecting a drop in the price of units of buyer Precision Drilling Trust, which expects to close a takeover of Grey Wolf today.

COST CUTTING U.S. heavy equipment maker Caterpillar Inc. said yesterday that it would cut white-collar pay by up to 50 per cent and offer buyouts to some employees as it looks to cut costs. REUTERS

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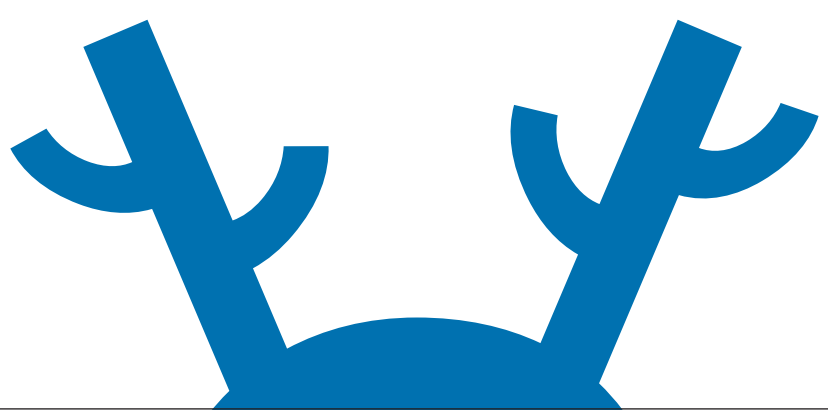

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'08 as ugly as they come

NationalReport

Lawrence Martin

As years go, they don't get much uglier than 2008. The economy started on a long and likely brutal plunge. The never-ending war in Afghanistan showed no signs of closure. We had yet another election which was dispiriting in almost every sense.

In this 21st-century version of open democracy, we had the Governor General make a critical call on our political future without a word of explanation for her decision. We had a Conservative government, which normally stands broad-shouldered against deficits, usher in a period of deficits.

We had a government which stands for high ethics and transparency give us the Cadman affair, NAFTAgate, Maxime Bernier and Boobgate, the in and out affair, the shutting down of Parliament and election campaign ads featuring defecating birds.

Despite the Conservatives' repeated attempts at self-destruction, we had an opposition party so feeble that it actually lost ground against them. The Liberal leader hit new lows on the hapless meter, showing himself even incapable of producing a nationally televised video of himself that was in focus.

It was supposed to be the year in which we addressed the pressing matter of global warming. By year's end, green was pretty much forgotten and we'd moved on to other bruise-like colours.

The year featured a prime minister more interested in playing political poker than in showing inspirational leadership.

We had a celebrated war general, Rick Hillier, who decided, just at the moment he was perhaps most needed, to call it a day.

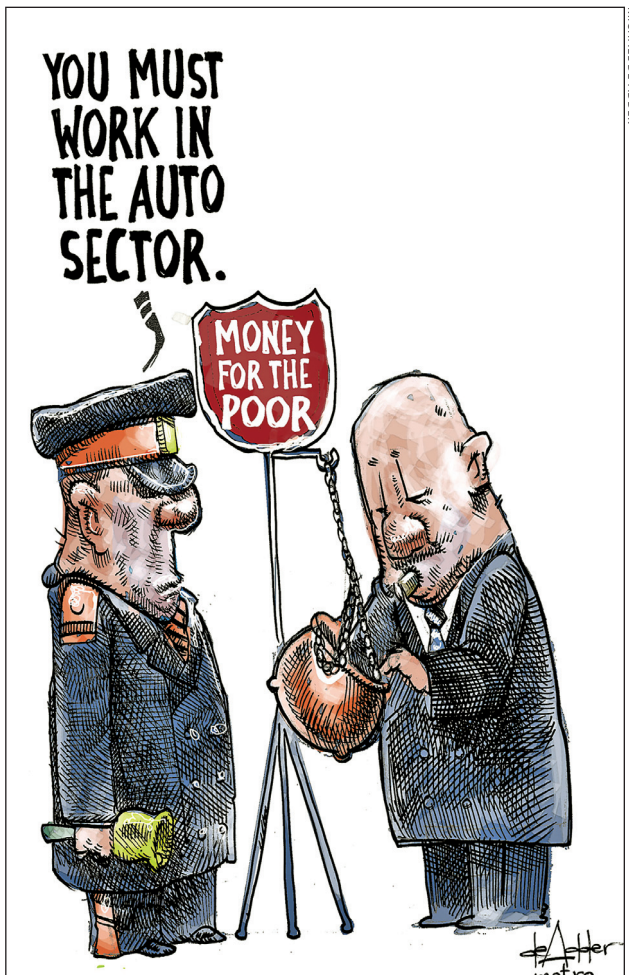
The year featured a prime minister more interested in playing political poker than in showing inspirational leadership on the major issues of our times. Stephen Harper closed down Parliament twice, once claiming it was dysfunctional when in fact he had gotten his way in the Commons almost every time. A second bolting of the doors came when Parliament threatened to dysfunction him, forcing the PM to rush off to Rideau Hall to beg for salvation.

The fiasco that was the government's economic statement typified our year in the dumps. Here we were, on the edge of a global economic meltdown, and the finance minister could do nothing better than play cheap politics with it, bringing forward a policy which threatened to starve opposing parties of financing. That in turn somehow led to a spectacularly unedifying east-versus-west debate about separatists at the gates.

It was a suitably depressing capper to a relentlessly depressing political year.

In the nation's capital, the one good thing about '08 is that '09 can hardly get worse.

Lawrence Martin is a Globe and Mail correspondent and author who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

'Powerful' spirit alive and well in Zambian women

Tanya Kim

I returned from my first trip to Zambia recently. Taking time from my hosting duties with CTV's eTalk, I had the honour and privilege of working with CARE Canada. This non-profit organization launched the I Am Powerful campaign, which is committed to empowering women in the fight against global poverty.

In the communities we visited, I saw that with the right tools and training, combined with hard work and determination, women are able to lift themselves, their families and their communities out of complete depths of despair and poverty.

On my journey, I met extraordinary Zambian women who define what it means to be powerful. They are strong, humble and exhibit fierce resilience in situations where they could easily be defeated. They showed me what it means to be a part of a community. From village to village, I saw women working together in support of each other — from building dams, to farming their gardens, to feeding malnourished children … I feel so blessed to have experienced why the I Am Powerful initiative exists.

There is so much joy, so much pure beauty in Zambia! With so many negative images of extreme poverty associated with Africa, I am thankful that I was able to encounter a more hopeful view. In so many of the villages, we were greeted with welcome songs.

My goal in working with CARE on this adventure was to bring hope and inspiration to the people I met in Zambia. But instead, it was I who was filled with hope and inspiration after being so warmly welcomed into the lives and hearts of so many.

One of the most touching moments for me was during a visit to a gardening collective. The women proudly showed me the rows of maize, potatoes and onions they were growing, and danced with joy at sharing the results of their hard work. The group sells the produce, pouring all of the profits back into helping their communities.

I left Zambia with a renewed sense of the importance of passion for your work and compassion for others. We all have a role to play in the fight against poverty. Every little bit helps in making a difference.

Tanya Kim is the host of eTalk and one of Canada's leading authorities on music and popular culture.

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: ottawaletters@metronews.ca
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Your Money

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

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Every little bit counts for families in need this season.

By now you've probably done your fair share of dodging crowds at the mall and most likely made the majority of your obligatory party rounds — gaining a pound or two in the process!

And as your thoughts turn to how you are going to complete the holiday shopping in time, it's important to take a time out to consider helping those less fortunate. We've compiled a list of ways that you and your family can give back this holiday season without taking up too much time or money.

Time:

Donating your time to a cause is an incredibly generous way to give. Choose an organization that is important to you and would be in need of volunteers. Maybe you have a charity that are involved with or you have heard of a local charity that you think would be a good fit.

Skills:

Just like we suggest you use your skills and experience to barter for products or services, you can also use your skills and services to give back. Some of us use our marketing/PR skills to give back to local organizations like Feed the Need and Quest. Consider a skill that you have that would be helpful to a charitable organization. Anything from working on an organization's website, to writing newsletters, recruiting volunteers or organizing fundraising activities would be appreciated.

Items:

At this time of year many charities prefer unwrapped gifts and food donations. However there are a number of organizations that will take everything from gently used clothing items to household items, blankets, etc. Contact your local shelters to find out what they need the most during the holidays.

Money:

When donating money to a charity, make sure they are a trustworthy and well managed organization so you are able to give confidently. You want to ensure your hard earned and generous donation is going towards the right thing. It's a great idea to contact the organization of interest and ask about how donated money is allocated and what the short and long terms goals are of the organization. It's also a great idea to confirm how much money you need to donate in order to receive a tax receipt.

If our wallets are feeling the pinch then you can be certain all of the organizations that assist others are also feeling it. Every little bit counts for families in need this season.

For a list of local charities in your area check out charity.com

Happy Giving and Happy Holidays!

Contact us with questions at smartcookies@metronews.ca. For more tips for saving and giving back, check out Smart Cookies Guide to Making More Dough, available in bookstores.

Tune in Wednesday night at 9 p.m. EST/PST on the W Network and be sure to visit smartcookies.com for more tips.

Investing

Allan Small

The week's column investigates whether it's a good time to buy gold. Visit metronews.ca

Plan now for long-term survival

MoneyMatters

Henry Choo Chong

choochonghcga@yahoo.ca

Q This past year has been financially difficult. Two years ago, my wife, newborn and I moved into our first home. If I used my CIBC RRSP shares for paying down my mortgage and the balance to re-purchase another stock, what capital gains will I pay? Can I defer my Homebuyers Plan repayment this year?

Sameer

A Spirits are definitely low this holiday season with stock portfolios haemorrhaging, real estate values declining and increased unemployment in the horizon. Although there will continue to be negative economic news in the media, 'tis not the season to lose hope.

You are not taxed on the capital appreciation in your RRSP but withdrawals will be fully taxable at your marginal tax rate. The repurchase of stocks will not reduce your tax burden and you must include, as income, the annual non-repayment of HBP.

Planning for what could be the worst recession in several decades will require discipline.

Increase income

Look for opportunities to increase your income. Ask for a raise, another position or more work (pay as well) at your current job. Second jobs can do wonders. It's more interesting than being a couch potato.

Consolidate

Keep no more than one or two credit cards. Why have temptations? Why pay interest on some cards at 12 per cent and others at 28 per cent? Get rid of the higher interest cards. Reduce bank charges on your bank accounts.

Pay yourself first

Arrange pre-authorized deposits directly from your pay. What you don't get, you won't miss.

Invest on a regular basis

Don't just invest when the stock market is booming.

Reach Henry Choo Chong, CGA, at choochonghcga@yahoo.ca.

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No suspense for top racing awards

Somebeachsomewhere was a unanimous selection for the O'Brien trophy, Standardbred Canada announced yesterday in unveiling the respective finalists for Canadian harness racing's top awards. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports

Cavaliers deny interest in VC

According to a report by CBS Sports, the Cleveland Cavaliers have denied they have interest in trading for Nets star and former Toronto Raptor Vince Carter. The Cavs are expected to be a player in the NBA trade market before the trading deadline on Feb. 19.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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NHL RESULT

Penguins 4 **Sabres** 3 (OT)

VS

Sidney Crosby's deflection goal 43 seconds into overtime sent Pittsburgh over Buffalo 4-3 last night at HSBC Arena.

Early in the extra session, Alex Goligoski gained control of the puck in the left circle and slipped a bouncing pass to the right circle for Evgeni Malkin. His fluttering one-timer knuckled toward the crease, where Crosby tipped it home with his stick just below the crossbar. For the Penguins captain, it was his first goal in 10 games, dating back to a hat trick on Nov. 29 against the New Jersey Devils.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canadian GM flies Falcons to playoff spot

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

High atop the list of most excellent executives in the NFL this year — right up there alongside legendary league luminary Bill Parcells — is a former University of Guelph student who once served as a not-so-glorified gopher for the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

Were it not for the worst-to-first ascent of Parcells' Miami Dolphins, in fact, Thomas Dimitroff would be a shoo-in as the NFL's top exec of 2008.

Last January, Dimitroff accepted an offer to become Atlanta Falcons general manager, a position several established NFLers flat-out rejected. The reason was that the Falcons were dogged — you should pardon the expression — by unprecedented nightmares last year. They were 4-12.

Their franchise quarterback — Michael Vick — was jailed because of his role in a dogfighting ring.

Their coach, Bob Petrino, quit after 13 games to return to college football.

Desperate, owner Arthur Blank turned to Dimitroff, who was scouting for the New England Patriots. Dimitroff hired Jacksonville Jaguars defensive co-ordinator Mike Smith as coach, acquired running back Michael Turner as a free agent and chose quarterback Matt Ryan third overall in the NFL draft.

All three flourished and, on Sunday, the Falcons qualified for the post-season.

"Never thought this could happen this year, never," Blank told Metro Sunday after Atlanta's playoff-clinching triumph in Minnesota. "This is the season of miracles, thanks to Thomas."

Those of us who followed the CFL closely in the late 1990s knew Dimitroff as a poorly paid (about $16,000 a year) front-office employee in Saskatchewan.

After an ordinary stint as a defensive halfback at Guelph, he joined the Riders for odd jobs, ranging from ticket sales to promotions.

Football was in his blood. His father was a football lifer. Tom Dimitroff coached and scouted in the CFL and NFL before dying of kidney cancer in 1996.

The junior Dimitroff grew up in Ontario as his dad coached in Ottawa and Hamilton. Tom Sr. continually advised his son to chase his GM dreams by paying his dues. Thus, Thomas did the Ordinary Joe Jobs in Saskatchewan, the World League of American Football, a Japanese league and then in Cleveland, where he spent much of his time literally painting the Browns' football field.

At 42, Dimitroff is through with behind-the-scenes work in football. He's front and centre in Atlanta, toast of the town, architect of an awfully surprising playoff team.

"I gave Thomas years to rebuild our team," Blank said.

"And he did it in months. He's a special guy.

"We're very proud of him. Canada should be proud of him, too."

Thomas Dimitroff played football at the University of Guelph.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

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Health & Beauty

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

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When innocence is on sale

The J Spot
Josey Vogels
Sex talk with Josey

You have to wonder how Mary got everyone to believe she was a pregnant virgin. Sure, that whole Immaculate Conception was a pretty clever ruse but Joseph had to be at least a little suspicious on their wedding night.

I wondered the same thing when I heard guys were bidding millions to be 22-year-old San Diego-based Natalie Dylan's first. Earlier this fall, Dylan (not her real name) auctioned off her virginity to the highest bidder in order to help pay for graduate school to become a marriage and family therapist. Bids ranged up to $3.8 million. If I'm spending that kind of dough, I'd want proof.

But, the fact is, there's really no way to prove whether or not a girl has done it. The most popular idea that an intact hymen is proof of her virginity is completely false, says Hanne Blank, American historian and author of Virgin: The Untouched History. Hymens run the gamut, says Blank, from thick and resilient to thin and fragile, making them easy to break in a myriad of ways and therefore lousy indicators of whether or not a young woman has had intercourse.

In fact, medical research isn't really sure why women even have a hymen. Some research suggests that it is simply vestigial tissue, that is tissue that possibly once had a function in a different evolutionary stage but has since become redundant, much like our appendix.

Unfortunately, says Blank, they found a use for it when men become landowners and they needed to know who their kids were so they could hand down their property (known as the paternity-property hypothesis). The easiest way to do this was to marry a verified virgin. And proving that this flimsy bit of membrane was still intact seemed a plausible enough method of verification. Except, as mentioned, given its flimsy nature, the state of a woman's hymen is a lousy way to "prove" virginity. As result, people have come up with all kinds of ways to create this "proof," like inserting a vial of pig's blood in the young woman's vagina on her wedding night so it would burst and stain the sheets or undergoing hymen restoration surgery, increasingly popular among mostly Muslim immigrants in Europe who want to have their virginity "restored" for marriage. Saving your virginity until marriage is a personal choice. Fine. But undergoing surgery to "restore" your virginity or spending millions for a one-night stand with a virgin seems like a high price to pay for something you can't even prove. In the business world, this would be considered a bad investment.

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship columnist and author of five books on the subjects. For more info, visit joseyvogels.com.

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Madagascar 2 dominates foreign box offices
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa hurdled to the forefront of the foreign box office with weekend sales of $33.5 million from 56 territories. The animated film opened in 10 markets and was welcomed in the No. 1 spot by Italy and Australia, as well as Hong Kong and New Zealand. **REUTERS**

Entertainment

Hyped hair

Say good-bye to Robert Pattinson's sexy tousled locks. The Twilight star caused a major frenzy when he stepped out this weekend with a new crew cut. PEOPLE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Winslet explores post-war guilt

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Based on a simple plot description, The Reader sounds like a conventional piece of Hollywood's end-of-the-year awards mongering. After all, it is a tragic love story told over the backdrop of the holocaust.

However, dismissing the movie on this level would do it a disservice. Much like the award-winning Bernhard Schlink novel that it's based on, the film is actually a morally complex story about the challenges that the young people of post-Second World War Germany faced when accepting the atrocities carried out by the previous generation.

The Reader might start as an Autumn/May romance between Kate Winslet and a young boy, but things change pretty drastically when the boy discovers that Winslet's character was once a guard at a concentration camp.

Dealing with the Holocaust and Germany's post-war guilt without needlessly moralizing or sentimentalizing the subject is no easy task, but director Stephen Daldry (The Hours) jumped at the opportunity.

"I hope audiences have as many different reactions as possible," the director said. "One of the things we tried very hard to do was to maintain that ambiguity."

Daldry's approach to the material is certainly admirable, but his film never would have worked without a talented actress to take on the lead role of the illiterate, Nazi, cradle-robber Hannah Smitz. Kate Winslet was a fan of the book and the first choice for the role, but she almost missed out because of a scheduling conflict.

"The novel first came to my attention seven years ago," says Winslet. "I was absolutely gripped, compelled, and ultimately devastated by the novel. I knew that I wanted to do it, but logistics got in the way.

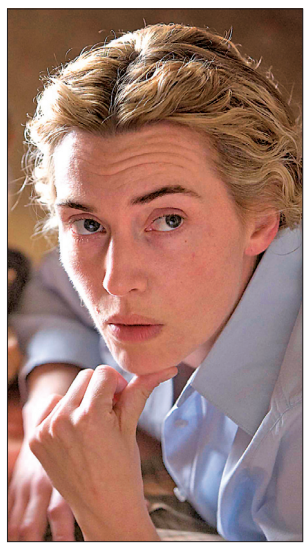
"Then it became Nicole Kidman's role until she became unavailable because of her pregnancy, the schedule was shifted and the role opened up for me again. I just felt so lucky that happened."

However, despite how much she clearly enjoyed playing the role, even Winslet refuses to forgive the atrocities of her own character.

"I did love Hannah, because I understood her profoundly. Did I sympathize with her? Yes, but that doesn't mean that I sympathize with SS guards in general, not at all. I don't forgive her.

"But that's what I love about the film. It's not a film about forgiveness or reconciliation. It's a story about regret, because you don't choose who you fall in love with."

The Reader opens on Christmas Day.



Kate Winslet in The Reader.

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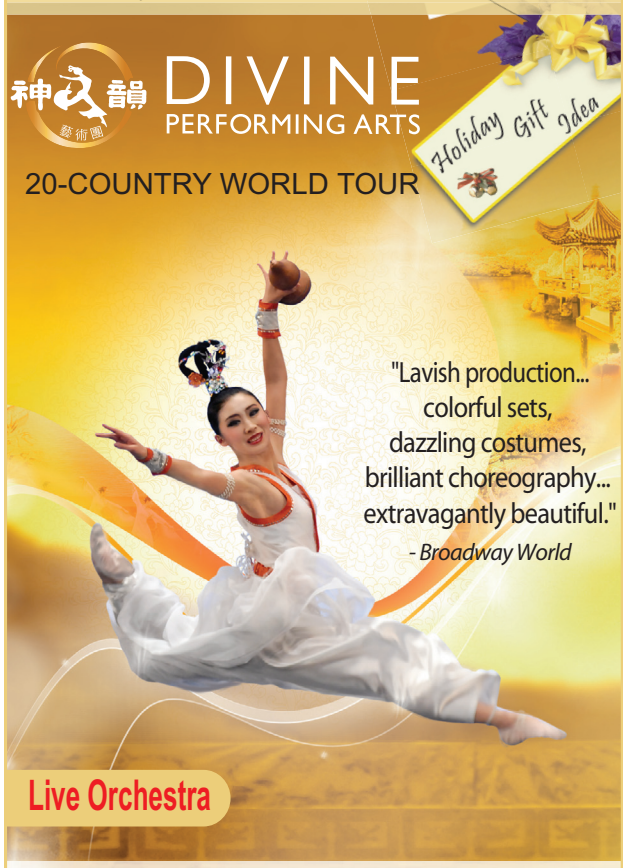

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16 entertainment

Doubt a dream for Davis

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Viola Davis may get recognized mostly for playing the tiny role of a crack mother in the 2002 drama Antwone Fisher, but that's about to change — even if it's not for a boost in screen time.

With one lengthy, powerful scene in the upcoming drama Doubt, Davis isn't just holding her own opposite Meryl Streep, she's winning the hearts of moviegoers and critics.

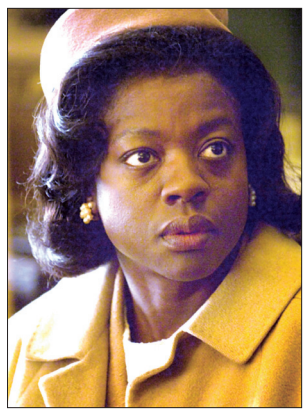
Another modest part for the 43-year-old actress, it's already garnered her an award from the National Board of Review and some very juicy Oscar buzz.

"It's impossible to ignore, but it's almost impossible to embrace also," Davis said over the phone from Manhattan.

"I'm the actor who gets the call from their agent, I go to the audition, I hope I get the job … I'm the working actor, so the Oscar talk, the National Board of Review, I can't grasp it."

It's certainly not an accolade that's undeserved. In Doubt — it opens Christmas Day — Davis plays the mother of a child suspected of being victimized by a Catholic priest in 1960s New York.

When confronted by the alarmed school principal (Streep), Davis introduces a startling perspective. It's a rich, revelatory scene that has been described as the "crucible of the story."


Viola Davis appears in Doubt.

Not lost on Davis, she developed her own 50-page biography of the character before filming began.

"I'm a neurotic actor, are you kidding me? I'm a theatre geek, I work on neuroses," Davis said.

"It's one thing if you have several scenes, you have an opportunity to show and play different aspects of a character's life and that can inform your performance in fantastic ways.

"But when you only have one scene and you're coming into that scene, you're bringing a whole life into that scene with you."

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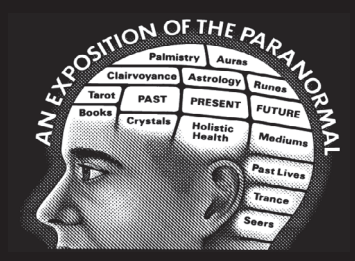

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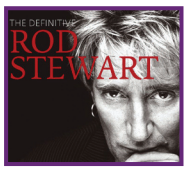
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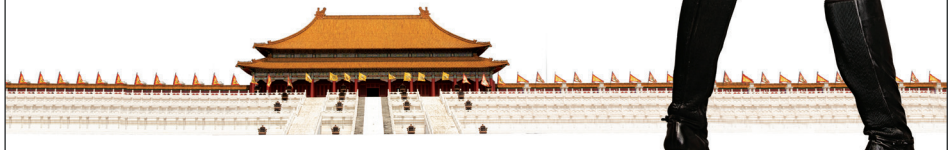
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Olympics special on NBC
Thought you had heard the last of the Olympics until 2010? Think again. On Saturday, NBC will broadcast Beijing Olympics Opening Ceremony: TV Event of the Year, a two-hour special hosted by Bob Costas and Matt Lauer, according to The Hollywood Reporter. TVGUIDE.COM

Vanishing acts

Shows stuck in TV twilight zone

Most TV shows exit the airwaves with a flurry of headlines memorializing their demise. Sometimes, though, a program fades from the spotlight into a scheduling twilight zone: Neither declared dead nor returning.

Here's the lowdown on some missing-in-action titles from this year that most expected to see again but which have no airdates on the horizon:

NBC'S AMERICAN GLADIATORS: Gladiators ready? No, gladiators are not ready. This competition-series revival enjoyed terrific ratings for its initial run during the Hollywood writers strike early this year. A second season launched in May and suffered a sharp drop in viewers, with ratings fading throughout its summer run. NBC has not mentioned Gladiators on the record, but it's considered cancelled.

FOX'S THE MOMENT OF TRUTH: Another strike-era reality hit, this, too, saw a ratings decline during its summer run. Unlike Gladiators, though, Truth isn't very expensive, and Fox has shot unaired episodes for a new season. Given the troubled economy and the show's controversial content, sources said garnering advertiser support hasn't been easy. No airdate is planned for Truth.

CBS' ELITEXC SATURDAY NIGHT FIGHTS: CBS planned four experimental off-brand specials and aired three, two of which performed well among younger demographics. With EliteXC declaring bankruptcy in October, though, the fourth special is not happening.

FOX'S 'TIL DEATH AND ACCORDING TO JIM: Both are modestly rated, critically indifferent sitcoms produced by their networks' sister studios that fill schedule holes when needed. Death is off the air, but a midseason appearance is likely. Jim will leave the air shortly, and ABC plans to air its remaining 12 episodes in the summer unless called into action earlier. REUTERS

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HOW TO TURN HIM ON

Men can be mysterious creatures, especially when it comes to what turns them on. Wouldn't it be great to know exactly what gets him hot? Read what real men say gets them in the mood.

Getting all hot and bothered starts with just getting together. Let your man know when the time is right and he'll be more than happy to skip out on a boys night out in exchange for what you have in mind.

Ask your guy to tell you where he likes to be touched. There are more than just the obvious hotspots. Even better, try to figure it out together.

Being confident in bed is sexy. Don't force something you're not comfortable with. Stick with what feels right and it'll enhance the mood for the both of you.

(continued online...)

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OT		Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/23/08	primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Blue Realm Manta rays.		The Best of The Agenda		The Street		The Choir (Part 3 of 4)		Best-Agenda
		211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	House (HDTV PA)		NCIS "Requiem" (HDTV)		Painkiller Jane		News (N)
		-	-	5	SRC	Antarctique	La Petite vie	(7:57) La Petite vie (SC)		Grand Rire de Québec		Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)		TJ Ontario
		209	342	6	CHRO	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		*Chasing Christmas* (2005, Drama) Tom Arnold.				The Mentalist (HDTV)		News (N)
		196	311	7	CTV	Hollywood	Corner Gas	*Stolen Miracle* (2001, Drama) Leslie Hope.				Law & Order: SVU		News (N)
		208	303	8	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	*Miracle on 34th Street* ★★★ (1994, Fantasy)				CBC News: The National		The Hour
		-	360	9	NBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Law & Order (HDTV)		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		News (N)
		117	713	10	TVA	*Devine qui* ★★ (2005, Comédie) Bernie Mac, Zoe Saldana.				Musicographie René Angelil.		TVA 22 heures	*Un Père Noël au grand coeur*	
		-	-	11	QS	Catherine (SC)	Piégé Zézé	*Un Noël pour l'éternité* (2006, Fantastique) Jay Mohr. (SC)				Cent dix pour cent (SC)		Msr Showbiz
		137	763	12	TFO	Tout simple	Clipperton	Noël autour du monde		*Le Cirque* (1928, Comédie)		Le Cirque	Folie-aventure	Tout simple
		-	362	13	CBS	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		Home for the Holidays		NCIS "Requiem" (HDTV)		The Mentalist (HDTV)		Two/Half Men
		216	395	14	OMN2	Cold Case "One Night"		News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
		214	344	15	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Privileged (HDTV)		Rediscovered (N)		Hates Chris	Friends	News (N)
		115	343	16	CFMT	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Bouncers	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
		218	345	18	E!	Tube Tales	TV Made, Do It	*Christmas Caper* (2007, Comedy-Drama) Premiere.				Inside Hollywood		News (N)
		-	361	20	ABC	News (N)	Entertainment	Grinch Stole Christmas		Rediscovered (N)		ABC's the List (N)		News (N)
		512	396	24	CPAC	La Période de questions		Heure polit.	L'Heure politique				Revue	Période-quest.
		651	355	25	CTS	Happy Days	Laverne	Michael Coren Show		100 Huntley Street		Life Today	This Is Day	John Hagee
		-	365	36	FOX	TMZ (N)	Seinfeld	House (HDTV PA)		(9:01) Fringe		News (N)		News
		-	-	64	PBS	Business Rpt.	Holiday Train	Nova (HDTV) (DVS)				Joy to the World		Tavis Smiley
		205	312	104	CTV	Hollywood	Corner Gas	*Stolen Miracle* (2001, Drama) Leslie Hope.				Law & Order: SVU		News (N)
	news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Fortune	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Snowdon and Margaret		National
		500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	sports	406	417	27	net	NHL Hockey Ottawa Senators at Philadelphia Flyers. (HDTV) (Live)					Overtime	Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
		126	730	28	RDI	RDI en direct	Chine	Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
		400	280	30	TSN	Junior Hockey: IIHF World Championship Pre-Competition					SportsCentre	NHL Hockey: Canucks at Sharks		
		410	403	52	SCR	Cabby Unlimit	Court Surfing NBA news, scores and highlights.					Score Tonight		Hockey Talk
		411	457	56	OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman
		417	406	59	SC	Pinks	Pass Time	Low Life	Low Life	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Hot Import	Hot Import	Pinks
	family	554	544	48	TEL	*Dennis*	Gotta Catch Santa Claus		Stardust		Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Rick & Steve
		557	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
		551	542	65	YTV	Red-Nosed Reindeer		Malcolm-Mid.	Fresh Prince	Fries That?	Mystery Hnt.	Martin Mystery	Mon. Warriors	Mystery Hnt.
	cable variety	570	580	29	MM	News Special	Where You At	Where You At	Where You At	Celine Dion: Woman		Celebrity Wrestling		Tommy Lee
		615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Legal"		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		Manhunters	Manhunters	Runaway
		628	584	32	SPKE	CSI: NY (HDTV)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		UFC Unleashed		UFC Unleashed		MANswers
		521	560	34	TLC	World's Heaviest Man		World's Heaviest Man		Mystery Diagnosis		Dr. G: Medical Examiner		Heaviest Man
		145	761	35	TV5	Toute une histoire		Fabuleuse		Les Sapins de Noël		Création pub		Journal TV5
		616	521	39	SHO	*Recipe for a Perfect Christmas* (2005, Romance-Comedy)				Testees	Trailer Park	House "Human Error"		House
		620	523	40	BVO	Desperate Housewives		Celtic Angels at Christmas		Come Into the Parlour		Tell It On The Mountain		Law & Order
		520	505	42	DIS	Daily Planet (N)		How It's Made	How It's Made	Destroyed	Destroyed	Dirty Jobs Turkey farm.		Daily Planet
		575	583	43	CMT	Canada Countdown		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Three Wishes		Doc
		601	562	45	SLC	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Date My Ex: Jo & Slade		Rich Bride, Poor Bride		End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada
		625	548	46	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	S. Silverman	Flt.-Conchords	Daily Show
		294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	*The Mighty Ducks* ★★ (1992, Comedy) Emilio Estevez.				Cheers	Seinfeld	Family Guy
		600	564	49	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Pure Design	Style	Sarah's House	Design Inc.	Colin & Justin's Home Heist		Holmes-Homes
		627	528	50	SPC	Lost		Star Trek: Next Gener.		The Dresden Files		Zombiemania		Stargate SG-1
		581	566	53	MTV	Next	After	MTV News	Cribs	A Double Shot of Love		A Double Shot of Love (N)		MTV Live
		618	524	54	TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210		Planet Soap	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	King	Family Guy
		522	506	55	HIS	NCIS "Light Sleeper"		Outlaw Bikers		Ax Men "Black Friday"		NCIS "Light Sleeper"		Crime Stories
		129	773	60	CD	Le Grand Rire				Mayday (HDTV)		Images-chocs		Tueur
		261	394	61	V	Murder, She Wrote		Bless-Father	On the Buses	*The Man Who Saved Christmas* (2002, Docudrama)				Origins-C'mas
		602	567	62	W	Friends	Will & Grace	Shopping Bags	Shopping Bags	*Crazy for Christmas* (2005, Drama) Andrea Roth.				Shopping Bags
		269	350	70	APTN	Wings-Canada	Great Towns	Wapos Bay	Rez Rides	*Kidz in the Wood* (1996, Comedy) Dave Thomas, Julia Duffy.				Respect
		621	527	71	TLK	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	Sarah	Look-A-Like	Off the Leash	The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
		603	561	95	FN	The Main	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		The F Word		Chef School	At the Table	Restaurant

critics'corner

Miracle on 34th Street
Even if your heart belongs to the 1947 original with Edmund Gwenn, Maureen O'Hara and Natalie Wood, this 1994 remake of the holiday classic isn't half bad. Richard Attenborough plays the store Santa who believes with all his heart that he's the real deal, with Elizabeth Perkins and Mara Wilson as the cynical mother and daughter he has to convince. 8 PM on 8 CBC

10th Annual A Home for the Holidays With Faith Hill
The country singer lends star power to the latest edition of the annual special. It offers true stories of families that have benefited from taking in a new member. Other performers include Gavin Rossdale, Jamie Foxx and Tim McGraw. 8 PM on 13 CBS

House
Rock climbing requires fast reflexes, and when a woman suddenly can't move her hands, her daughter almost pays the price. House tries to figure out what is causing the paralysis in "It's a Wonderful Lie." 8 PM on 3 GTV, 36 FOX

Twilight's Taylor to be replaced in sequel?
Rumours have been running rampant that Twilight star Taylor Lautner, who played Jacob Black, will be replaced in the sequel, New Moon, tvguide.com reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

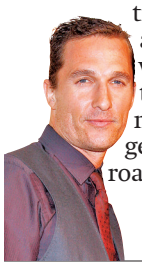
Celebrity Buzz

Matt details road trip adventure

PEOPLE Matthew McConaughey was rescued by an 82-year-old Mexican woman named Matty after his truck broke down, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actor was on a 14-day road trip to Baja, Calif. with a friend when the pair's vehicle broke down in the middle of the desert.

Matty loaned McConaughey her 1981 Isuzu truck, he says. "That truck got us to a place where we could get the gear to fix my truck and get back on the road."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Nick Cannon's ex speaks out about Mariah marriage

RELATIONSHIP Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon's secret wedding may have surprised fans, but it also caught someone else off guard — Cannon's ex-girlfriend Christina Milian, people.com reports.

"I was like, 'Really?' It just seemed like a weird match," says the singer and actress tells Rap-Up magazine. "But I was happy for him. I always feel like Nick works hard to get what he wants, whether that be women — that's how he got me."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Amy's topless vacay splashed on tabs

PEOPLE Amy Winehouse is making a splash across the British tabloids thanks to her revealing holiday, where she was photographed on the beach and on her balcony sans top, popeater.com reports.

Still, though the tabs are swarming over the nudity, they're generous with the compliments when it comes to her appearance.

The Daily Mail says Winehouse "looks the picture of health as she piles on the pounds" in the new photos, in which it's obvious she's put some pounds on her once-frail frame.

The Sun was a bit less congratulatory, running video of and describing a topless dance that Winehouse did on the balcony of her St. Lucia hotel room. They describe it as a "bizarre balcony boogie," saying Winehouse "was caught on video as she lurched from one side to another, waving her arms."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Britney and Benji rumours false

DATING As one might have guessed, all those rumours linking Britney Spears and Benji Madden were completely false, popeater.com reports. The singers definitely aren't dating, Spears' rep told E! News. "The claims made by In Touch are completely false … There is not an ounce of truth to any of it," she said.

Last week, In Touch magazine claimed Spears' father Jamie Spears and her manager Larry Rudolph set the two stars up on a few dates — creating an instant love connection. But have no fear. Spears isn't jumping back into the dating game with Paris Hilton's ex just yet, says her rep.

Since the release of her album Circus, Spears has been linked to several celebrities including Chace Crawford, Jesse Metcalfe and Michael Phelps. None of which panned out or have been confirmed.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sam hospitalized for depression?

PEOPLE Samantha Ronson is reportedly suffering from depression, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 31-year-old DJ was accompanied by girlfriend Lindsay Lohan as she visited Los Angeles' Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre on Sunday — less than a day after it was reported she had been making frantic phone calls to friends complaining of stress and exhaustion.

A source told Life and Style Weekly magazine: "Samantha was calling around. She has been suffering from depression and from lack of food and sleep. Lindsay has been helping her through this as she has been through it herself two years ago."

Doctors were reportedly called to Samantha's home shortly before she visited the medical facility.

Despite her trip to Cedars-Sinai being described as "relatively minor," witnesses say Samantha was taken into the hospital in a wheelchair through the emergency entrance.

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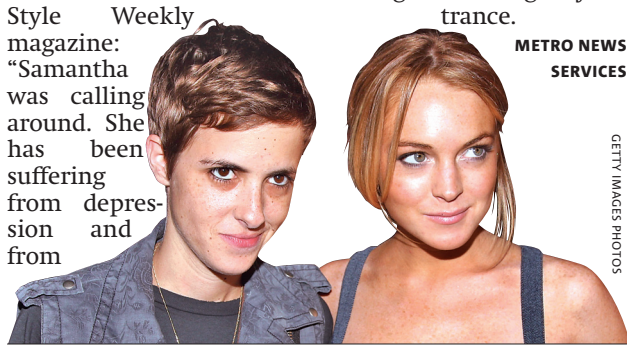

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Ritchie rebounds with heiress Khan

RELATIONSHIP Just as their divorce settlement was making news, Madonna's ex-husband, Guy Ritchie, appeared to be celebrating his freedom and the holidays with someone new — millionaire heiress Jemima Khan, people.com reports.

The two attended a London dinner party together earlier this month at the home of public relations honcho Matthew Freud and his wife, Elisabeth Murdoch, daughter of media mogul Rupert Murdoch, reports London's Telegraph.

Khan, 33, is the socialite daughter of Lady Annabel Goldsmith and the late financier Sir James Goldsmith.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sandler dresses up as a princess for storytime

PEOPLE Adam Sandler dresses up as a princess to read his daughters stories, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actor likes to get into character when he regales tales to daughters Sadie, two, and newborn Sunny.

Adam, 42, said: "I like to dress up as the lead character in whatever story I am reading. This is a little weird because my daughter loves the Disney princesses. But you'd be surprised at how good I look in a ball gown.

"I hold the storybook and make up my own stories with the characters. This backfired when my daughter started watching movies and realized that Cinderella didn't drive for NASCAR."

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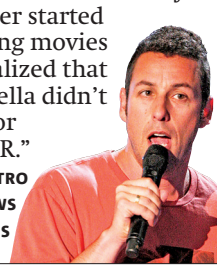

'Boy' Beyoncé jogs incognito in park

PEOPLE Beyoncé Knowles likes dressing as a boy, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer dons male clothes so she can go running incognito.

Beyoncé, 27, said: "I love being able to run in Central Park. Just me and my trainer. I dress up like a boy and then no one knows it's me."

Her latest hit If I Were a Boy details what she would like to do if she were able to swap gender for a day.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

The Weather Network
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Today: Variable -9° / -10°
Wednesday: 10+cm of snow 90% 3° / -15°
Thursday: Mainly sunny 2° / -20°

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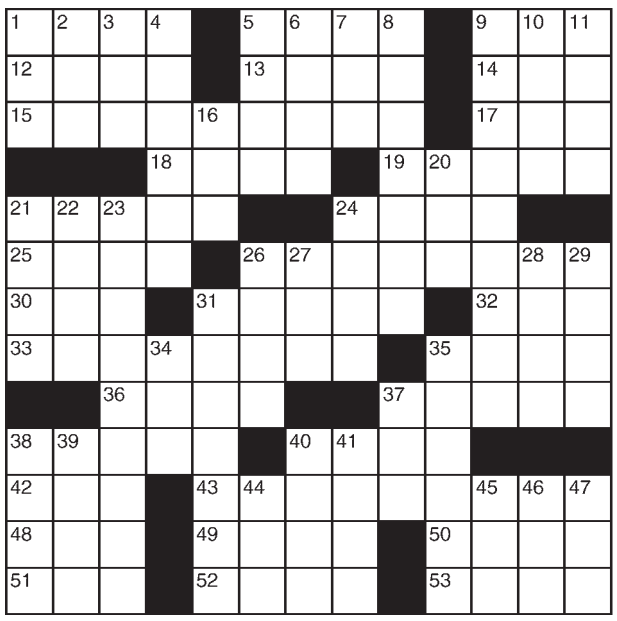

Crossword across

1 Prompted on stage
5 "— the night before Christmas"
9 Perch
12 Geometry find
13 Colonial Nathan
14 Commotion
15 Yankee pattern
17 Not a lot
18 Drag behind
19 Song of praise
21 Recorded
24 Right on the map?
25 Oklahoma city
26 Times past, to Burns
30 Raggedy doll
31 Get the answer
32 — XING (street sign)
33 Nobody else's business?
35 Swallow, e.g.
36 "Once — a time"
37 Available
38 Beat
40 "So be it"
42 Sphere
43 Part of a gun
48 Time of your life?
49 One of HOMES
50 Tardy
51 "Le Coq —"
52 Campus VIP
53 Otherwise

Crossword down

1 Upper limit
2 Swiss canton
3 Still, in verse
4 Destroyed, as in hopes
5 By way of, briefly
6 Banshee's cry
7 Matterhorn, for one
8 Amount of ooze
9 Diaper fastener
10 Concept
11 Burg
16 Young Mr. Lincoln
20 Donkey
21 Squad
22 Domini preceder
23 ATM ID
24 Green-eyed monster
26 Crazy one
27 Every crumb
28 Dweeb
29 Vortex
31 Parodied
34 Antonym (Abbr.)
35 Bracelet type
37 Coop occupant
38 Frog's cousin
39 Therefore
40 Operatic solo
41 Carriage
44 Anger
45 Crony
46 "Monty Python" opener
47 Born

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	1	6		4				7
	8					6		
3		9		8	6			
		2	7			4		
			5		4			
		3			2	9		
			3	6		2		8
		1					3	
6				2		5	9	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

M	O	A	T	■	A	I	D	■	R	E	A	M
I	N	V	E	I	G	L	E	■	E	T	N	A
S	E	A	T	B	E	L	T	■	N	U	T	S
■	■	■	H	I	S	■	O	B	O	I	S	T
A	C	H	E	S	■	A	N	E	W	■	■	■
P	A	I	R	■	N	E	A	T	N	I	K	■
E	L	D	■	E	A	R	T	H	■	T	A	B
■	M	E	A	T	P	I	E	■	D	E	L	I
■	■	■	R	O	H	E	■	A	R	M	E	D
E	X	T	A	N	T	■	D	N	A	■	■	■
A	R	A	B	■	H	E	A	T	W	A	V	E
C	A	R	L	■	A	N	T	I	L	L	E	S
H	Y	P	E	■	S	E	A	■	S	E	T	S

9	3	5	4	2	6	8	1	7
4	7	8	3	5	1	6	2	9
6	2	1	9	8	7	3	4	5
7	5	2	1	3	4	9	6	8
8	4	3	6	9	2	5	7	1
1	6	9	5	7	8	4	3	2
3	9	7	2	4	5	1	8	6
2	1	4	8	6	9	7	5	3
5	8	6	7	1	3	2	9	4

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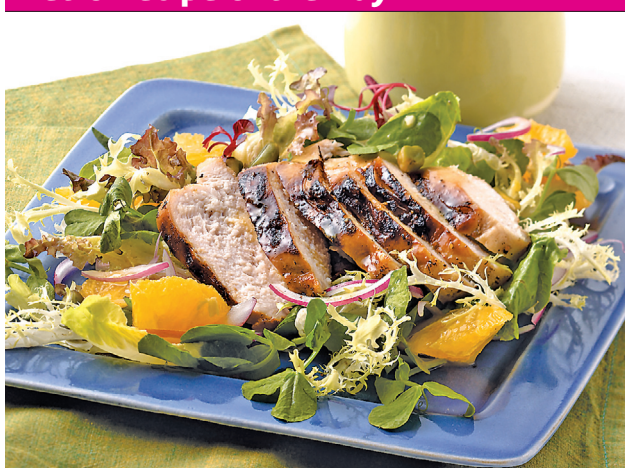
SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Grilled Chicken Salad with Oranges

INGREDIENTS:

1/3 cup (75 mL) orange juice
2 tbsp (25 mL) lemon juice
3 tbsp (45 mL) extra-virgin olive oil
1 tbsp (15 mL) Dijon mustard
2 garlic cloves, minced
Salt to taste
Freshly ground pepper to taste
1 lb (450 grams) boneless skinless chicken breasts, trimmed
1/4 cup (50 mL) pistachios, or slivered almonds toasted
8 cups (2 L) or 5 oz (140 grams) mesclun salad mix
1/2 cup (125 mL) thinly sliced red onion
2 medium oranges, peeled, quartered, and sliced

METHOD:

1. Place orange juice, lemon juice, oil, mustard, garlic, salt and pepper in a jar with a tight-fitting lid; shake to blend. Reserve 1/3 cup (75 mL) for salad and 3 tbsp (45 mL) for basting.
2. Place remaining dressing in a shallow glass dish. Add chicken and turn to coat. Cover and marinate in refrigerator for at least 20 minutes.
3. Preheat grill to medium. Lightly oil grill rack. Remove chicken from marinade and discard marinade. Grill chicken 4 to 6 inches (10 to 15 cm) from heat source, basting cooked sides with dressing reserved for basting, until no longer pink in centre, 4 to 6 minutes per side. Transfer to cutting board and let stand 5 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, toast almonds or pistachios in small dry skillet over medium-low heat, stirring constantly, until light golden, 2 to 3 minutes. Transfer to bowl and let cool.
5. Place salad mix and onion in large bowl. Toss with dressing reserved for salad. Divide salad among 4 plates. Slice chicken and distribute. Scatter orange slices over top and sprinkle with pistachios or almonds.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Sincere gestures will make the difference in love. Time will seem to slither by. Being on the highway of love makes you dizzy.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Give something one more try. Retrace your steps to find a lost object. Do more than expected in order to be rewarded

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Don't pry into anyone's secrets. An investment strategy seems like a joke. A nervous person confesses their true intentions.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A man feels like a fool for love. Someone's fickleness is creepy. There's no consolation prize if a full effort isn't given.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
A pleased person makes an incredible offer. Don't throw in the towel when friendship hits a snag. Hold off making electronics purchases.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Don't wonder how things might have worked out. Watching a paranoid person causes problems. Facts will make you come to your senses.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Old friends are stunned by a revelation. Open all packages with care. A dental problem subsides for a while.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Somebody will remember to get in touch. A bully will take his lumps. Don't make life changes right now.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Your enthusiasm grows due to unexpected success. Count on a mating game moving fast. Help somebody make contact with reality.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Hypocrisy will be exposed by an accident. Don't mistake friendliness for love. The time has come for closure with the past.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
An accounting error works in your favour. A wise woman tells the truth. A good friend brings something special.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Waiting for something to happen will irritate you. Don't pretend to be an expert if you aren't. Embarrassment will limit public activity.

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2009 AVEO[5]

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CASH PURCHASE PRICE†

DEALER ORDER MAY BE required

2009 Aveo 5-Door LS 1SA (with options UE1 and PG9) model shown, MSRP $14,710 excluding freight.

DRIVE 789km
HWY ON ONE TANK OF GAS
HWY: 5.7 L/100km /50 MPG
CITY: 7.9 L/100km /36 MPG*

- The redesigned 2009 Chevrolet Aveo[5] has even better fuel consumption than last year.▪
- 1.6 ECOTEC 4-cylinder engine with 106hp
- Five-Star frontal crash test rating◇

★★★★★
FIVE-STAR FRONTAL CRASH TEST RATING◇

2009 HHR

$19,498

CASH PURCHASE PRICE◆
INCL. $500 CASH BONUS[1]

- Five-star frontal and side-impact crash test rating◇
- Standard ABS & StabiliTrak™ electronic stability control system
- Standard air conditioning & power windows/locks/remote keyless entry
- 25.2 cubic feet (638L) of flexible cargo volume & a fold-flat front passenger seat
- 2.2L ECOTEC 4-cylinder engine with 155hp

★★★★★
FIVE-STAR FRONTAL CRASH TEST RATING◇

DRIVE 1048km
HWY ON ONE TANK OF GAS
HWY: 4.2 L/100km /64 MPG
CITY: 9.2 L/100km /31 MPG*

2009 COBALT LS

$11,839

CASH PURCHASE PRICE†
INCL. $500 CASH BONUS[1]

2009 Cobalt SS Coupe 1SA (with 29U) model shown, $25,725 MSRP excluding freight.

DRIVE 925km
HWY ON ONE TANK OF GAS
HWY: 5.4 L/100km /52 MPG
CITY: 8.0L/100km /35 MPG*

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